



BeMed Laureates Day - Monaco Ocean Week, 21 March 2023 (EN)

I. Introduction

- a. Context and background: conclusions of the Monaco Ocean Week 2022 and the PlastiMed project led by IUCN

After the workshops that were held during **Monaco Ocean Week 2022** a Community of Practice was established. The exchanges and discussions between the laureates were the occasion to put forward the needs and points of vigilance that were identified regarding the creation of the Community of Practice.

The needs identified were grouped into four categories: the need for **Sharing**, the need for **Learning**, the need for **Cooperation**, and the need for **Coordination**.

Redesign of the BeMed 'Resources' page	Sharing and Learning
Online directory of contact	Sharing and Cooperation
3 BeMed Community Rendez-Vous per year	Sharing, Cooperation, Learning and Coordination
1 Annual physical meeting	Cooperation, Coordination, Learning et Sharing
2 Community Letter per year	Sharing

During the implementation of these tools and activities, points of vigilance were taken into account, notably the importance of quickly demonstrating the usefulness of the Community for the members to allow it to function properly.

Points of vigilance

-  Balance of benefits vs. time spent
-  Do not duplicate what already exists but capitalise on it.
-  How to keep the interest of laureates who are no longer funded by BeMed?

The beginning of 2023 also marked the end of **the PlastiMed project "Closing the plastic tap"**, carried out by the IUCN. The objective was to better understand the origins and pathway of plastics into the sea, but also the dispersion, toxicity and impacts on marine biodiversity and the food chain. From this project, many useful resources for the BeMed laureates were developed.

b. Introduction of the PlastiMed results

These tools have several uses: they allow the dissemination of knowledge on the origins of plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, they can be used in local and regional advocacy, and they also allow the dissemination of good practices among stakeholders.

The following reports were produced:

- ❖ [A report providing an overview of marine plastic waste pollution in North African countries](#): this report focuses on the legal and institutional framework as well as the location of landfills.
- ❖ [Blueprint – An approach to scale-up solutions to achieve “zero plastic pollution” in the Mediterranean Sea](#) : Report intended to support / accompany public decision-makers in the implementation of solutions to combat plastic pollution.
- ❖ [StoryMap](#) : interactive map of the data collected by the TARA expedition in the Mediterranean (*The streaming of plastic in the Mediterranean Sea*) as well as the data collected for the « *Mare Plasticum* » project.
- ❖ [« Hope for the future »](#): this video questions the viewer's relationship with plastic, an omnipresent material that has become invisible because it is everywhere. The video invites the viewer to ask himself what kind of future he imagines, and if it is plastic-free.
- ❖ [A welcome kit to the BeMed Community of Practice](#): The video and fact sheet are intended to present and promote the BeMed Community to the awardees. These two materials present both the objectives of the Community, why it exists, what happens in it, what is expected from the members of the Community, the resources available.

II. **Microplastics: between science, industry and civil society**

a. Panel – Microplastics: making an invisible pollution visible.

Speakers :

- ❖ **Marc Metian** [*Research scientist at the IAEA*],
- ❖ **Yaprak Arda** [*IUCN Marine Conservation Expert*],
- ❖ **Marie-Pierre Denieul** [*Senior Project Manager at Veolia*],
- ❖ **Şahika Ercümen** [*Turkish freediver*].

1. What are the sources of leakage of microplastics into the environment?? (MP Denieul)

There is no single type of microplastic, as many parameters are involved: size, nature and shape. However, there are two main categories of microplastics, primary and secondary.

- ❖ **Primary microplastics represent between 15 and 31% of microplastics** and are released directly into the environment in small particles. They are released directly into the environment in small particles, for example from cosmetics, tire dust, washing clothes, etc.

❖ **Secondary microplastics represent between 69 and 85% of microplastics**, they come from larger pieces of plastic, which have fragmented in the environment into smaller pieces.

2. Can we measure the impact of microplastics on the environment and even on biodiversity? (Marc Metian)

Today, it is possible to carry out studies in a laboratory to try to understand the impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, but we are not able to know the concentration of microplastics in the environment. We can see certain effects, but we can't go below 20 microns. It may be that nanoplastics have even more negative effects on the environment, but it is still too early to say for sure.

3. Are public decision-makers addressing the issue? What level of knowledge do they have of this issue? (Yaprak Arda)

Microplastics are indeed being addressed by public policy makers. This was not the case at the beginning, as policy makers tend to focus on the most obvious things. At the regional and European level, efforts are being made to address microplastics. The subject is being taken up in the discussions of the International Plastic Treaty, and therefore could be addressed in this text.

At the Mediterranean level, the Barcelona Convention is accompanied by numerous plastic-related protocols, a coalition for high ambition, alliances on the plastic circle, and many states are committed to these issues. Awareness among public decision makers is growing, but it takes time.

4. You work with textile brands, is microplastics a topic they address in their work? (Şahika Ercümen)

In her work as a freediver, Şahika is seeing more and more plastic underwater, and less and less fish. She also sees plastic in the most remote corners of the world. For example, she accompanied Turkish scientists to Antarctica and collected water samples for them. Analysis revealed the presence of microplastics in these samples.

A Turkish textile brand approached her for a collaboration. However, the brands focus primarily on machines that can recover microplastics, not on the production of textiles itself. By working with them, she raises awareness and makes a contribution.

5. How can water treatment be a solution to limit the leakage of microplastics into the environment? Is it sufficient? (MP Denieul)

Without water treatment, the situation would be much worse. Water treatment is an effective solution. For example, in Toulon, between 99.4 and 99.9% of microplastics are retained. It should be noted, however, that the number of water treatment plants is low internationally, and not all have the characteristics of the Toulon plant.

Veolia is working with the University of Aalborg, based in Denmark, which is renowned for its expertise on microplastics. The aim is to further improve the water treatment system, for example by going down to 10 microns.

Veolia supported a project: Mediplast. This took place in Toulon. The studies demonstrated the presence of microplastics on the ground. Similarly, their study demonstrated that rainwater is a vector for microplastic leakage into the environment when it is not treated (which is often the case).

6. How scientific cooperation can play an important role? (Marc Metian)

Currently, the challenge scientists face is the measurement of microplastics. Fostering scientific collaboration can enable tools and techniques to flow faster, which is why by 2026, training on microplastics measurement will be provided in 60 countries. Increasing the skills of the world's scientists is necessary to go further.

7. What could be done from a regulatory point of view to limit the leakage of microplastics? (Yaprak Arda)

Regulation can play a key role in significantly reducing the presence of microplastics. To do this, we need to be ambitious, and we need to go back to the source. Regulations must target the highest emitting sectors first. They must also be adapted to each sector, as not all sectors are affected in the same way (e.g. automotive industry and cosmetics industry).

It is important to understand the cycle of microplastic pollution to make the right decisions. Reduction at source is once again the most effective and economical solution.

In parallel, it is essential to continue to raise awareness of these issues, but also that organizations, whether local or regional, work together.

8. Can these types of knowledge/data be used to raise awareness in your community or among the partners you work with? (Şahika Ercümen)

If you go into too much detail, the content can be seen as boring. To be effective in raising awareness, you need to use different channels well. Social networks and sport are very good vehicles for messages.

Currently she is training for the World Freediving Championships. She wants to use this championship to raise awareness about plastic pollution. Young people are particularly inspired by what she does and the messages she passes on through her activities and networks, which have enabled them to become aware of nature conservation issues.

At the same time, she is writing a children's storybook focusing on life underwater, in which she will address nature conservation and plastic pollution. Children are a vector for change in society.

b. Q&A Time

Question: Sylvain Petit (SMILO) What is the status of the implementation of producer responsibility for microplastics? Is it possible to identify the pollution and identify the actors responsible?

Answer of Marie-Pierre Denieul (Veolia): Veolia is both a water treatment and waste treatment operator. As a water treatment operator, the problem is that we are at the end of the pipe. The “polluter pays” principle is an interesting concept, but it is very difficult to discuss this subject with industrial players. For example, textile producers, who are responsible for a large amount of microplastic fibers in wastewater, say that they cannot change anything in textile production because brands ask them to use specific fabrics made of plastic fibers, which have specific properties. They prefer Veolia to implement new technologies capable of filtering the water at the end of the chain. We can also give another example in relation to the textile industry: in 2025, in France, washing machines will have to be equipped with a filter for microplastics. But we do not yet have any information on the filters: what is the size of the mesh? What to do with the filter when it needs to be changed or rinsed? How do you dispose of the microplastic waste found in the filter? How can it be a good idea if the waste ends up in the same place? There is no harmonised methodology at the moment, and we can see that there is room for improvement in the way this problem is tackled, and responsibilities are identified and allocated.

Q: John McGeehan (World Plastics Association): To what extent are microplastics ubiquitous and widespread?

Answer of Marie-Pierre Denieul (Veolia): Microplastics are everywhere. In the ground, in the air, on the highest mountains, in the depths of the oceans, in icebergs. Scientific studies around the world are trying to quantify the amount of microplastics scattered around the planet. The results are staggering enough, but the scientific community is convinced that these figures underestimate the reality - for example, the figures for microplastics and agriculture do not consider the total area of land under cultivation, so the impact of the 'spread' of plastics on land is most likely underestimated.

Furthermore, the impacts on soil, biodiversity and biotope are not well known... The mechanisms of plastic degradation into microplastics are not well understood either. The best solution to avoid pollution by microplastics would be incineration, but this is not possible for everything, and it implies other forms of pollution, notably greenhouse gas emissions.

Q: For water treatment plans and projects, is there a standardised method for collecting and measuring microplastics? For example, in the EU? Is there an implementation plan? Same question on the research side?

Answer of Marie-Pierre Denieul (Veolia): At EU and French level, work is underway. The ISO drinking water standard is expected to be published in 2024. So far worldwide, only one state in the USA has legislation on microplastics: California has published a first draft for measuring microplastics in drinking water. Discussions are underway at EU level. But in order to implement

new policies, a standardised method is needed first. And as we have discussed in previous questions, this is the difficulty.

Marc Metian (AIEA) adds: The more we move towards smaller plastics, the more difficult it becomes to have standardised methods. The methods are increasingly complex, and we need to be increasingly "equipped" and have the "capacity" to collect and measure these microplastics. It is therefore necessary to develop financial and practical means to be able to set up this cooperation.

Q: How can people be made aware of the "invisible" danger of plastics? As these are indirect dangers, it is complicated to raise awareness. Do you have any ideas? How to give a clear and simple message?

Answer of Yaprak Arda (IUCN): It is important to reach as many people as possible, especially those who are less aware. But this is not always easy. You have to find the best channel to reach them. This is what Sahika Ercümen was explaining. Finding the channel by trial and error, to reach people in the best way.

A :Sahika Ercümen adds: It depends on the place and the context. In Turkey she is an ambassador for a big clothing brand. She says that this works well to raise awareness among a wide audience.

Q : Is it relevant to talk only about reducing microplastics? Or can we find opportunities to manage the transformation of microplastics? Are there opportunities to develop?

John McGeehan (Doctor in Organic Chemistry and specialised in plastic degradation by enzymatic reaction) answers : I think there are opportunities, at the moment we're in the early stages of thinking, and the challenge is that there are myriads of different molecules, and they're mixed with lots of other materials and sometimes even integrated into organic compounds. So it's complicated to find methods that have sufficient yield to make the cost/optimality balance favourable. It is therefore complicated to have opportunities, it is quite possible that it is only on the side of reduction that we must mainly work, but the future will tell us, only scientific studies will allow us to confirm this.

Q (by Céline Renouard to the assembly): Who is working on the subject of microplastics? How do they raise awareness?

NDLR: About ten hands were raised for the first question.

Answer of Andrew from Zibel : I will have contacts with ministers, decision-makers representing the public authorities, I will manage to get people to come to the field, to raise their awareness, but the days that follow when the decision-makers go home, they will delegate the work to one person in their team, who will perhaps delegate it to another person, and in the end, the message will be completely diluted. So it's complicated for the public authorities. In his opinion, it is more relevant to raise awareness on the industrial side.

Question of Romain Troublé - Fondation Tara Océan for Marie-Pierre Denieul : Was the methodology used by Veolia during its project in Toulon to assess the quantity of microplastics discharged in rainwater and wastewater shared with the scientific community?

Answer of Marie-Pierre Denieul (Veolia): We have shared our methodology at some conferences. But you should know that: making 200 samples represents a cost of 500,000 euros. So for the moment it is an expensive methodology, which also requires a lot of human and technical resources.

The same goes for the treatment of plastic waste: it is not a question of lack of will, but a question of the complexity of the diversity of plastics to be treated, of the contexts in which they must be recovered... It is therefore a complicated issue.

c. Workshops in sub-groups

Groupe n°1 – Raising awareness among the youth.

It is necessary to show the existence of microplastics and explain where they come from, through activities in the field and upstream workshops to raise awareness of the issue. It could be interesting to add this issue to the school curriculum, but also to link microplastics with the arts. Young people are more accepting of change. And especially children have fewer barriers than teenagers. It's easier to talk to this audience and the different aspects of plastic and microplastic pollution. All sources and solutions can be discussed with them, but efforts should be made to make the issues understandable (despite the complexity).

Different awareness raising tools can be used. Not all of them are aimed at the same audience, but it is important to go through a process of making the information fun to ensure that it is disseminated:

- ❖ Film / cartoon (7-12 years) with superheroes [Super-plastic].
- ❖ Field activities (15+ years)
- ❖ Colouring with different materials
- ❖ Awareness-raising stand at events: trunks with different objects
- ❖ Collecting waste in order to demonstrate that it is necessary to act upstream => by following a collection monitoring protocol (counting, weighing and analysing) => participatory science, transforming them into citizens who can act
- ❖ Explain why recycling is a false good idea
- ❖ Let the children think: they can raise parents' awareness at the time of shopping (e.g. food shopping)
- ❖ Virtual reality: an interesting tool, it has been tested by the sailing league to raise awareness among its members.
 - The classic awareness-raising scheme no longer speaks to children, we must use tools that speak to them
- ❖ Games: Escape games, use games, whether real or virtual.
- ❖ **Make schools a place to raise awareness of the issues and change habits** => to do this, teachers need to be supported, by passing on knowledge and good practices. It is also

necessary to adapt what is said according to the courses of study where these exist. We can imagine projects carried out within the classes on plastic pollution.

- ❖ Use art: music, plastic arts, paintings, drawings, etc.
- ❖ Use sport as a means of raising awareness.
- ⇒ Messages need to be adapted, activities need to be made fun and diversified. Capitalise on what already exists and don't be afraid to innovate when the classic schemes don't work...

Observation: there are solutions that exist, but only those who are aware of them use them.

Future: We must make all possible solutions available, by doing our best to change the laws, modify the behaviour of industries, and turn our behaviour towards sobriety (e.g. consumption quotas).

All of this can be achieved by integrating environmental issues into school curricula, in order to train future citizens in these issues and indirectly to raise parents' awareness. Adaptation is the key to raising awareness among young people.

Brands must also be questioned about the role they play in encouraging consumption, particularly among the youngest. The economic lever must also be activated, because as long as plastic is cheaper, it will be preferred. The circular economy must be promoted and the fight against single-use plastics must be prioritised.

Points to remember - Workshop n°1

Raising awareness among young people involves several levers:

- ❖ Scientific popularization (explaining where plastics come from, the mechanism of formation of microplastics, their impacts on health and the environment);
- ❖ Field activities (upstream and downstream of plastic flows);
- ❖ Fun activities (virtual reality, art projects; sports; escape game)
- ❖ Inclusion of the topic of plastic pollution in the school curriculum.

Youth is a particularly important population to target because:

- ❖ They are the main people concerned and the future actors in the fight against plastic pollution
- ❖ They are vectors for raising awareness among their families and friends.

Groupe n°2 – Discussions with sectors 'using' plastics in the environment

The **agricultural sector** is a major consumer of plastics, with the use of greenhouses for market gardening, but also tarpaulins for cereal growing. The latter are used to protect the soil from high temperatures and to keep moisture in the soil. However, these plastics are not harvested and then put into a processing system, as they are shredded directly with the soil. Biobased alternatives are starting to flood the market.

In collections, some protocols do not take into account agricultural waste. It is therefore difficult to understand their contribution to plastic pollution, and therefore to create a dialogue or to look

for solutions. For example, SRFs (*slow releasing fertilizers*) are a major source of soil pollution. Another example is water retention basins, which are dug holes covered with a tarpaulin to limit the infiltration of water into the soil. This is another source of pollution.

The **fishing sector** uses a lot of polystyrene, and it is a real nuisance for the environment. It is essential to bring in a generational, long-term view and not to lose local practices.

- ❖ *The problem of fishing nets: how to treat them? Can they be recycled?*
- ❖ *The question of producer responsibility arises.*

There is a conflict between the fishing sector and the voluntary sector (not always). There are therefore important issues of transparency when working with this sector. For example, what happens to the traps collected, what happens to them. They don't want money to be made on their backs, without them being able to benefit from it.

It could be interesting to work with "sustainable fishing" certification agencies, which have a growing problem is the emergence of biobased / biodegradable "solutions". This is an aspect to be highlighted in the discussions.

- ❖ **Biobased:** They continue to justify the use of plastic, but their life span is also shorter. There is also the question of their toxicity.
- ❖ **Biodegradable:** This removes the need for collection.

In this sector, there are real difficulties in returning to the use of plastic for financial reasons and a decrease in the availability of raw materials for non-plastic nets and traditional traps (e.g. for blue crab in South Med).

Plastic fishing nets are cheaper, but thinner, so they have a shorter lifespan. However, once they are used, there is no widespread recycling channel. To create interest in this sector, incentive processes must be put in place to create value.

- ❖ **Roy:** To succeed in recycling fishing nets, it was necessary to create a dialogue with the fishermen. This involved support from local authorities, cooperatives and setting up a financial incentive system. Now, the recovered nets are crushed and transformed into pellets. They can then be transformed (they met with Plastic Odyssey).
- ❖ There are difficulties related to cleaning and untangling the nets.
- ❖ **Yaprak:** A local Turkish association uses used fishing nets to cover fruit trees to protect them from birds = reuse system. But this technique is not legal everywhere.
- ❖ One can also imagine a deposit system: once used, the net is brought back to the place where it was bought, and the fisherman gets a discount. This could be part of the extended producer responsibility.
 - For example, shellfish boxes are thrown away after harvesting. A deposit system could limit this phenomenon.
 - There are nets made from coconut fibres (formerly in Camoglia).

In addition, the impacts of recreational fishing, which leaves many traces and is only loosely regulated (and controlled), must be considered. There is a great need to raise awareness. Marine protected areas can play a role since they contribute to the preservation of "stocks".

These two sectors are financially strained, they are difficult jobs and salaries are low. In both cases, labelling and financial valuation can be interesting mechanisms. It is necessary to create a financial and/or health interest to hire them, while informing them of the negative impacts of plastic pollution. It is also necessary to regulate/legislate.

Points to remember - Workshop n°2

The agriculture and fisheries sectors were the two main sectors that were addressed during the discussions of this workshop.

Agriculture

- ❖ Large consumer of plastic (greenhouses, tarpaulins, plastic encapsulated "slow release" fertiliser beads, plastic lined water tanks);
- ❖ No collection of these plastics, they are exposed to the weather outside, degrade and then end up mixed with the soil. However, these plastics are not collected and then put into a treatment system, as they are crushed directly with the soil. Bio-based alternatives are beginning to flood the market;
- ❖ Difficult to estimate the extent of the problem, as there is no collection, there are no official statistics.

Fishing

- ❖ Intensive use of polystyrene (very damaging to the environment)
- ❖ Difficulty also in the treatment of fishing nets at the end of their life (difficulty in recycling them, cleaning and untangling)
- ❖ Important issues of transparency between the fishing sector and the voluntary sector (especially if money is generated during the processing of the waste)
- ❖ The use of plastic is also important for financial reasons and because of the reduced availability of raw materials for non-plastic nets and traditional traps
- ❖ Impacts of recreational fishing which is not sufficiently supervised: need to raise awareness.

Beware of false good ideas:

- ❖ Biobased alternatives: These continue to justify the use of plastic, but they also have a shorter lifespan. There is also the question of their toxicity.
- ❖ Biodegradable alternatives: These remove the need for collection.

Conclusion

These two sectors are financially strained, they are difficult jobs and salaries remain low.

- ❖ Importance of efforts to raise awareness among the general public (recreational fishing, marine protected areas) but also among fishermen (health issues and negative impacts of plastic pollution on marine biodiversity)
- ❖ Search for sustainable alternatives
- ❖ To have a generational look, on the long term and not to lose local practices
- ❖ Importance of labelling and financial valuation
- ❖ Importance of creating a strict regulatory framework.

Groupe n°3 – Discussions with plastic 'consumer' sectors

The first question to ask is who is being targeted, taking into account the economic context, but also the influence of the sector. Examples: hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, laundromats or washing machine manufacturers, etc.

Resources and experiences of the awardees:

- ❖ **Lucia:** Blog posts on family life style, it has been well received by schools. Is produced as part of the Erasmus Ecopodcast. The general trend is to promote local traditions, to allow people to reconnect with these practices.
- ❖ **Roy:** Difficulty in promoting alternatives to plastics (such as paper bags), especially as these are expensive.
- ❖ **Diana:** Maternity project focusing on health impacts, especially the impacts of chemicals.
- ❖ **Yaprak:** Working with a large hotel chain. When guests refuse room service amenities, they are given tickets, a number of which entitle them to a free drink. Effective incentive system.
- ❖ **Demetra:** Network of restaurants to highlight good practices, successes that have resulted in savings. They worked with a certification agency in Cyprus.
- ❖ **Adeline:** *Ocean Friendly Restaurants* label is a voluntary label developed by SFE. To obtain it, you have to meet certain mandatory conditions regarding packaging, etc.
- ❖ **Tom:** To raise awareness and encourage team spirit around a project, a collection (macro and micro) can be a good start. You have to propose to come and see this pollution on the beaches for yourself, and that it be long enough (half a day).

On microplastics:

We need to make them understand what microplastics are, where they come from, and how they can be actors of change. Microplastics is a new concept for everyone, we need to take the time to raise awareness, both with the general public and with businesses.

- ❖ **Primary:** This concept remains accessible since children are able to grasp it. Nevertheless, it must be made tangible.
 - For example, the Rio Carnival with the massive use of glitter.
 - Cosmetics industry: With the use of applications to find out what is in the products as an awareness raising tool.
 - Plastic microfibres.
- ❖ **Secondary:** Interesting for companies as it implies reflections on the quality of the products.

We need legislation! It is also necessary to give arguments on the benefits that companies can generate by acting: competitive advantage, fines for non-compliance.

Example of Porquerolles: Some businesses are ahead of the regulations because they have organised themselves to eliminate single-use plastics, but the alternatives are not always more virtuous from an environmental point of view. This is why the alternatives must be local, considering the analysis of their life cycle.

- ❖ **Azra :** No bans for the moment, but incentives to reduce their use with "low plastic zones".

❖ **Andrew** : Has ideas for communication on bank cards (below).

As usable resources: Figures such as "Every week you eat 7 grams of microplastics, the equivalent of a bank card" can be eye-catching. Similarly, the links between health impacts and microplastics can be emphasized, with pregnant women being a particularly sensitive case. However, we must not fall into sensationalism! The aim is to make this pollution tangible.

It is essential to show them this pollution to make it visible and tangible. To do this, it is essential to communicate.

Idea of a video: Zoom in to highlight this pollution. For example, a view of a street, and zooming in, you can see the presence of smaller and smaller pieces of plastic.

On responsibilities:

- ❖ Who collects the waste?
- ❖ Who pays for it?
- ❖ What is the point of recycling if it is to create other small objects that will end up in the environment?
- ❖ Who do we talk to? Employees or directors/managers?
- ❖ Which sectors? Information on plastic footprints by sector is needed.

Hotels have more room for maneuver than supermarkets and are more advanced in their brand images. There are marketing arguments that can be, but for whom and for which class of the population?

A preventive approach is needed through the implementation of concrete measures to prevent macroplastics, and by extension microplastics. They should also be supported with training on the plastic footprint (at the opening?). An interesting lever could be the integration of packaging in quality/hygiene control. Furthermore, we must not forget to work with supply chains and suppliers, for example in organic shops.

The health arguments must be put forward since food packaging can contain chemical cocktails.

The future:

- ❖ Creating fish and meat proteins because the sea is too polluted and the resources too fragile = dystopia or reality?
- ❖ Keep realistic goals, don't try to change everything at once
- ❖ Packaging made from algae = the problem is wider than single-use plastics, it concerns all single-use objects and overproduction, but also their management once used.
- ❖ Rank cities according to their recycling rates.

Points to remember - Workshop n°3

Feedback from the laureates

A large number of diverse initiatives and ideas exist. These good practices need to be shared and implemented as widely as possible (considering the local context).

Microplastics

- ❖ Awareness-raising efforts to be carried out with the general public and companies to make them understand what they are, where they come from, and their impacts
- ❖ Notion of primary and secondary microplastics to be clarified and made tangible
- ❖ Importance of creating a strict legal framework
- ❖ Highlight the possible benefits from a commercial point of view (competitive advantage)
- ❖ Put forward arguments relating to health (food packaging may contain chemical cocktails)
- ❖ Have a preventive approach through the implementation of concrete measures to prevent macroplastics, and by extension microplastics.

Responsibility

The desire to reduce the presence of microplastics in our environment raises several questions:

- ❖ Who collects the waste?
- ❖ Who pays for it?
- ❖ What is the use of recycling if it is to create other small objects that will end up in the environment?
- ❖ How to identify the most polluting sectors?

What ideas for the future?

- ❖ Keep realistic targets, don't try to change everything at once
- ❖ The problem is broader than single-use plastics, it concerns all single-use items and overproduction, but also their management once used → dealing with single-use items and overproduction.

CONCLUSION

There are many initiatives on various subjects, from awareness-raising to scientific popularisation, from sharing good practices to advocacy. These initiatives and solutions need to be disseminated, not only among the actors of the associative fabric, but also beyond, in communities, companies and households.

There are major societal projects to be carried out:

- ❖ On the allocation of responsibility to the right actors;
- ❖ On the implementation of a robust regulatory framework;
- ❖ On sharing methodologies and scientific research;
- ❖ On obtaining funding to carry out this work.